

WEST VIRGINIA -ELECTION CONNECTION-

Your source for Election News from Secretary of State Natalie E. Tennant

Issue 1 – October 11, 2011

Greetings from Secretary Tennant

First of all, I would like to recognize election officials around the state for a successful special gubernatorial election! It was our fifth statewide election since May of 2010 – and we have two more coming up next year. We will need to communicate with each other constantly to make sure the people of West Virginia can once again go to the polls with full faith in our democratic process. In the Election Connection, you'll find all sorts of information that will help keep everyone up to date. In this edition, you'll find information about canvassing, redistricting, and how you can submit feedback to be included in the Secretary of State's Office legislative report on the special gubernatorial election.

2012 West Virginia Election Calendar

The Secretary of State's office has distributed our calendars for the 2012 election. It has dozens of deadlines, requirements, and procedures listed. If you need more calendars, please feel free to contact us and we will get them to you as soon as possible.

30 Weeks Until the May Primary!

On Tuesday, October 11 there will be exactly 30 weeks (or 210 days, or 5,040 hours, or 302,400 minutes, or 18,144,000 seconds) until the May Primary! You can count on the Election Connection every Tuesday leading up to the primary. The newsletter will include important news and dates for election officials. If you have an item you'd like to see addressed in the newsletter, please email Jake Glance in the Secretary of State's Office at jglance@wvsos.com.

Canvassing of the Special Gubernatorial Election

Remember as you start your canvass of the Special General Election today that W.Va. State Code §3-6-9(a)(8)(B) sets the time line for certifying the election results. No county can certify the results of the election until 48 hours after the last county has declared. Notify the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's Office as soon as you declare. The office will send out information on when the 48-hour recount request period begins and the date and time of your earliest opportunity to certify.

Have feedback?

The Secretary of State's Office would like to hear feedback regarding the Special Gubernatorial Election. Our office would like to include feedback in the legislative report that we are required to submit. Please contact the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office with your feedback by phone at (304) 558-6000 or by email at elections@wvsos.com. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Redistricting

The West Virginia Legislature adopted Senate Bill 1008, Senate Bill 1006 and House Bill 201 during the 2011 Special Sessions. The bills created new legislative district boundaries for Congressional, Senate and House districts within the state. 116 precincts in 25 counties were "split" by new delegate district lines, requiring local Clerks and Commissions to amend existing precincts to conform to the redrawn districts. (W VA Code §1-2-2B) In addition, 37 precincts in ten counties were split by the Senate redistricting plan.

The Office of the Secretary of State has been working with PCC to standardize street file data within SVRS and provide other system improvements to assist localities in applying new district and precinct data to voter records within the system. While the Secretary of State has received multiple notices of intent to sue the state regarding the adopted redistricting plans, the agency will continue to move forward with system preparations to implement the current plans and to respond quickly to any potential court-ordered amendments. In addition, the office is preparing a booklet outlining the composition of each of the newly configured districts. Copies will be provided to counties for internal use and distribution to the public.

Outreach Division Expands

The Secretary of State's Office would like to welcome Brittany Erskine to the Outreach Division. Brittany is from Charleston and graduated from West Virginia University with a dual Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies and Multidisciplinary Studies with an emphasis on Leadership Studies, Public Relations, and Sport & Exercise Psychology. She has worked for the Associated Press and has traveled abroad to both Africa and Central Europe. She will be working with Outreach Manager Sean Hill as they continue to offer valuable training sessions around the state.